

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

--A practical method for producing methionine is presented. When a substance capable of producing methionine through hydrolysis is used as raw material and converted into methionine by using a biocatalyst, the biocatalyst is repeatedly usable and the accumulation amount of methionine dissolved in the reaction solution is increased, and methionine is obtained in a solid form from the reaction solution. Specifically, the present invention relates to a method for producing methionine comprising the following steps: a first step of converting raw material capable of producing methionine through hydrolysis of 2-amino-4-methylthiobutyronitrile, and 2-amino-4-methylthiobutanamide or the like in an aqueous ammonia solution, into methionine-containing aqueous ammonia solution, with a biocatalyst through hydrolysis, a second step of separating the biocatalyst from the methionine-containing aqueous ammonia solution obtained in the first step, and a third step of distilling ammonia out of the methionine-containing aqueous ammonia solution separated in the second step to deposit and separate crystals of methionine.--